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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Common Sense and the Tariff on Art

It is amusing as well as instructive to recall the company we are in in taxing the importation of works of art. Turkey takes our view, but less haughtily, as befits a sick empire, taxing foreign art 8 per cent. only instead of 20 per cent., as we do. China, which as well as Turkey has some art to be proud of, also puts on a tax, but of 5 per cent., while Persia, also of fine art traditions, places the tax at 20 per cent., with us. So does New Zealand. Then there are Fiji, with | could be obtained for the army in time a duty of 1212 per cent.; Sierra Leone, with 10 per cent.; the Bahamas, with 20 per cent., and the Gold Coast of Africa, with 10 per cent.

It is a truism lost sight of only by the thoughtless that fine paintings brought into the country for a private owner sooner or later-and usually it is comparatively soon-get into the public gal- needs. The people want the best system leries permanently, and many times they that can be devised. Congress not only get into the galleries for temporary exhibition soon after they are brought here. Dr. EDWARD ROBINSON, the newly appointed assistant director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, is on record as saving on the occasion of his assembling a loan exhibition in the Boston Museum, when more than \$800,000 worth of paintings were lent to him, that the owners told him that one of the chief pleasures of their ownership of the pictures was in enabling others to see them. A third of the canvases in that exhibition came from New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, Chicago and elsewhere than from Boston.

The American Free Art League points out that of the paintings exhibited in the Corcoran Art Gallery at Washington more than one-third, amounting to more than one-half in value of the whole colthey have paid duty. Presumably many of them will eventually become public property, as will the collection of Mr. Museum. The Free Art League in its propaganda quotes the director of the St. Louis Museum as saying of a \$250,000 collection bequeathed to that institution that the museum would have received a collection of nearly double the value had the collector been able to spend for to pay directly or indirectly in duties.

According to the figures of the Bureau | sword. of Statistics, Department of Commerce ear as duty on art works the Government's annual revenues. The Government does not need the money, the artists do not want to be "protected,"

Reform in the Medical Branch of the Army.

In his address to the legislative committee of the American Medical Associa! throughout the world. tion at the White House on Wednesday President ROOSEVELT showed, as he has to be regarded as ridiculous. A very done more than once before, that he great improvement in the treatment of recognizes as the greatest defect in our animals in this town had taken place. army organization the almost complete Drivers who had ill treated their horses, demoralization of its medical branch, and | carelessly and thoughtlessly, rather than that he is keenly alive to the need of of any deliberate intention, were adreform.

in a worse condition than before. A decision that contract surgeons could suggestions, and arduous labor by these men, have left the medical branch in so deplorable a condition that, as the President says, "the present medical corps is 40 per cent. of the Regular army as it is reports. "If we had a war break out tomorrow," he added, "there would be an immediate breakdown in the medical

department." The President not only points out that if we had to raise a volunteer army we "should have to count upon widespread disaster through the shortcomings in the the responsibility for these shortcomings. He says it is "utterly unjust" to place them upon the army officials, and that they rest "upon the people themselves and their representatives in public life." He commends the Japanese medical service and its wonderful achievements as an example of what may be done.

Many of those who have studied the needs of the medical branch of the army will not be inclined to agree wholly with the President as to fixing the responsi-

had but what it was thought the army would be "most likely to get." It gave the comfortable and ornamental side of to the public. the profession-but it did nothing for "the poor devil on the firing line," as not reported because it was not a thor- imperative need for a change.

ough reform measure. The attitude of hostility on the part of the present medical corps to any suggestions "from the outside," the unwillingness to present a radical and complete measure, because of timidity born of that unwise spirit of conservatism that too frequently is characteristic of army methods, the desire for more gold braid and more pay to the exclusion of more important needs-all these have had much to do with the neglect of reforming

the medical organization. It should not be difficult to bring in a fairly adequate bill for this purpose, one that would not only attract surgeons to the service of the army as at present constituted, but would also provide a flexible machinery, under a system of retainers and special instruction, whereby an instant supply of competent surgeons of war. When the investigations of the medical men of the army sent to the front to study the methods of the Japanese army are published much light should be thrown on this subject. It is not necessary, however, to wait for these reports. Let the medical branch of the army ask for all that it knows the army will not oppose but will be glad of the opportunity to pass such a measure.

A Model Strike.

So far in its history the strike of union printers against the book and job offices in New York city has differed in one important particular from many previous contests of a similar nature, in that it has been free from violence and outrage. The union men, exercising their undoubted right to quit work, walked out of their employers' shops over a week ago. Since then the employers have borne public testimony to the good order observed by their former workmen and the absence from their campaign of violations of the law.

Too often a strike means bludgeonings, sandbaggings, attempts at arson, the distribution of explosives and simlection, are held in private ownership; ilar terrifying tactics. The printers' struggle of 1906 sees the adoption of no such measures, in its early stages at least, and witnesses the use of proper Charles L. Freer of Detroit, if Con- arguments, offers of better treatment gress or the Smithsonian Institution ac- and the like, to induce support and win cepts his offer, as President ROOSEVELT recruits. This policy indicates an unurges them to do, and the collection in derstanding among the strike leaders this city of the late CHARLES T. YERKES, of the public opinion that demands from recently bequeathed to this community all, employer and employee alike, strict under the care of the Metropolitan observance of legal methods in the adjustment of their disputes.

Perhaps it may mean the beginning of a period in which the sober, honest, lawabiding men among the unionists of all trades are to have their way, and the passing of that class of violent agitators who regarded themselves as licensed works of art the sum which he was obliged dictators, the defiance of whose commands justified retaliation by fire and

and Labor, the greatest sum ever col- A Private Society and Public Money. stitutional and curtailing matters. In 1866 the late HENRY BERGH founded was less than half the value of the Yerkes | the American Society for the Prevention bequest to this city, and about 1-1120 of of Cruelty to Animals, and on its incorporation he became its first president. He made himself the butt of much ridicule by his persistency in discovering

the people do not want a tariff on art. and bringing to punishment those who Who does want the tariff impost to be offended against its humane purpose, more especially as concerned horses; but when he died in 1888 a chain of similar societies had been established throughout the Union and in foreign countries, and he was held in honor

The movement had long since ceased monished and instructed as to the need Under Secretary Root's administra- of humanity to the beasts, in the interest tion of the War Department sweeping re- not only of the horses themselves but forms were made in nearly every branch also of their owners. The happy conexcept the medical service. Through sequence was made apparent in the no fault of the Secretary that was left greatly improved condition of the run

of horses working in the town. The society founded by Mr. BERGH exercise no military authority, the poor received handsome gifts, and by law it pay offered to such surgeons, the dis- was made the recipient of the dog licouraging attitude on the part of the censes, which amount to many thousands older surgeons of the army toward worthy of dollars annually. It is thus made a public agency, and properly the use of that money and of all the resources of the society should be published in detail. though for many years past this infornumerically only fit to take care of about mation has been withheld in its annual

of its present president they do not medical and sanitary and hygienic ar- is much neglect of its duties by the problems that just now vex the imprerangements," but he also ventures to fix society, so that cruelty to animals is sario who happens to have New York's beginning to become more frequent. The resignation several months ago of important men in the direction-for in-

satisfaction. if not most, of the more zealous memhis usefulness in that place seems to have bility for the inadequate organization ing on Thursday the attendance of those days there were also other works, of this part of the service. Congress critics and protestants was large, for planned on a scale to suit the greater only last winter was willing to remedy the first time in the history of the society; opera houses and deserving of perthe defects. There was a manifest de- but they were received with scant respect, formance in them. The composers sire to pass any measure that would make hardly with decent courtesy, though to-day are different, in that their best uon. the medical branch of our army as effect the majority of them were women, works are suited only to smaller stages, tive and capable as any in the world. A | Their demand that the society should | There are new operas in France, Italy bill was presented, direct from the Sur- publish an itemized accounting for the and Germany that would be a disgeon-General's office and stamped with money received by it is likely to be tinct gain to our répertoire if they his approval. It embodied not the full gratified, however, for it is as reason- could be produced in an opera house

legislation that the army should have able as it is urgent. Every detail of the administration of an institution which few modern works, on the other hand, collects and receives license fees im- adapted to successful performance in increased rank and pay, good things in posed by law, and thus is made a part of the vastness of the Metropolitan. The themselves-that is to say, it added to the public machinery, should be given music dramas of WAGNER, the operas

The delegation to a private society of the collection of public money is, at the Major L. L. SEAMAN, whose self-ap- best, always a questionable proceeding, pointed and public spirited service it has and when the management of the instibeen for several years to bring about a tution loses the confidence of its own real reform, pointed out. The bill was membership there would seem to be

Genius Gaines Retrenches.

Many a time and oft the country has seen Dr. John Wesley Gaines throwing white-hot shot from his intrenchments at the enemies of the plain people and tobacco. Now the Tennessee warrior has retrenched himself in a commanding position and fights with all his old ardor from his retrenchments.

The House Committee on Reform in the Civil Service has charge of the comprehensive and statesmanlike measure introduced by Genius GAINES last Monday, a bill "to create retrenchment commission, to reorganize Departments, to abolish unnecessary bureaus, to reduce salaries and expenses, to reform pension list, to regulate our system of internal improvements, and for other purposes.' The retrenchment commission is to consist of five retrenchers at \$10 a day and expenses. They are to be "selected from the five political parties, to wit, a Republican, a Democrat, a Populite, a Labor Party man and a Single Taxer. If there are any Populites left, however, they are so rich that \$10 a day is no object to them. The retrenchers are to investigate in detail all the civil departments of the Government, their methods, employees, organization, hours, and report their recommendations in a bill. They can visit at their discretion every Government institution, department, office and so on, a privilege which will insure them much pleasant travel. They can appoint as many clerks, stenographers and assistants as they need; a nice crumb of patronage. They are to have offices, office furniture, stationery. Their job is long and should be comfortable.

Then, by a delegated use of the appointing power, subretrenchment committees are to come into being. The five retrenchers shall appoint or employ in each pension district "three honorlican, a Democrat and a Populite," penioners all, to investigate the pension roll. No subretrencher to subretrench in his own district.

But Genius Gaines is not content with etrenchment and subretrenchment. His five retrenchers are "to inquire paricularly into the constitutional power of Congress to appropriate money for internal improvements, and also the utility and advisability of exercising such power if it exists and to formulate system that shall limit the indiscriminate practice," and so forth. The "minimum appropriations for local purposes" are to be curtailed, if possible, a curtailment which would be resented bitterly by every horse trough outlet in Genius GAINES'S own district.

Now appears a new retrenchment division. The five retrenchers are to appoint a surretrenchment commission, to speak; "three persons learned in the law, of high practical experience and of the three different political parties," to investigate and report as to these con-

Salaries are to be readjusted "on the trenchers are to do their work as an It is now \$140,000,000. object lesson:

" So exactly and accurately, with such little exense and with such high and patriotic purpose to oue the Government from the ruin that threatens nder such dissolute waste of the public moneys. as shall be within itself an exemplification of the new business methods, economy and retrenchment ey are constituted to inaugurate."

The cost of rescuing the Government from dissolute waste and threatening ruin is not to exceed \$250,000. Cheap at en times the money.

Reading this bill with its berths for Populites" and its little jab at the gold standard, one recalls vaguely the palmy lays of the Hon. HENRY W. BLAIR of New Hampshire and the many majestic bills proposed by the Wage Workers' Association of the District of Columbia, and motives. But Genius GAINES anticipates the future as well as he recalls the past. The grand hymn rises to the heart and lips: JOHN WESLEY GAINES, JOHN WESLEY GAINES.

While there is even one such man in Congress, the rescue of the Government from ruin is still possible.

Thou monumental pile of brains."

The Little Opera House.

Whether Mr. CONRIED or Mr. DAM-ROSCH builds the opéra comique theatre for New York does not much matter. Many humane women, members of the Mr. Damrosch may make this interestsociety, have constituted themselves ing institution an annex to a new concert volunteer agents to discover and report hall, or Mr. Conried may combine it instances of cruelty to animals. They with the theatre he has christened nacomplain that under the administration | tional. More important than the personality of the creator is the acquisireceive the assistance and support to tion of such an opera house for New which they are entitled, and that there York. Its presence will settle several operatic destinies in charge.

It is only in an opera house considerably smaller than the Metropolitan that stance, Mayor McClellan and Mr. the works of contemporary composers CHOATE—would seem to indicate that can be presented with the best results. It there is foundation in fact for this dis- is a fact that the newer works worth the trouble of producing at all are fash-Mr. HAINES, the president, has un- joned for a much smaller frame than questionably lost the confidence of many, the stages that customarily present the operas of the older répertoire. There bers of the society, and the period of have always been operas best adapted to smaller opera houses, like the Opéra come to an end. At the annual meet- Comique in Paris, but in those earlier

much smaller than ours. There are of VERDI. GOUNOD and MEYERBEER re-

main for its imposing spaces. If Mr. CONRIED had possessed such a theatre in which to perform "Hänsel und Gretel," one of the modern productions that he added to his list during the present season, the result would probably have been much more satisfactory from every point of view. The delicate charm of the work evaporated in the bill has the merit of being specific and of great auditorium. How much more potent in a less comprehensive audience room would be the beauty of "La Bohème," "Don Pasquale," "I Pagliacci" and most of the Mozart repertoire. Older works that are never attempted because of their unsuitableness to our great theatre would again be heard in connection with the recent operas of CHARPENTIER, DE BUSSY, PUCCINI and MASSENET.

New York is certain to have such an opera house in the near future. It has the money to satisfy all its artistic needs. This is one of them. Whether it be Mr. DAMROSCH or Mr. CONRIED who is to provide this theatre, it cannot come into existence too soon for New York's music lovers.

Those hardy youngsters the genuine Fosty-niners" who live here with us-and there are a good many of them left-must been interested by the news from Goldfield, Nevada. We may be sure their blood tingled as they read how W. F. BOND came into Goldfield bearing glittering samples of treasure from the little mining camp of Manhattan, eighty miles distant; of the instant and tremendous excitement it caused of the sudden rush of two thousand men bent simply and solely on getting to the new fields at once, ahead of any others, in order to stake the best claims. In a few days the population of Manhattan jumped from twenty persons to four thousand. Overloaded stages, wagons and everything else that would move on wheels; packhorses, gamblers, prospectors, greasers, Chinamen, experienced miners, "tenderfoots," all are there, we doubt not, and more a-coming! But of Indians, rustlers and other "bad men" not a word.

There is one thing, however, which must make the genuine "Forty-niner" swearing hot with indignation. We read that "two hundred dollars a day is being offered for autos by those anxious to reach the camp in a hurry." For autos, forsooth! That is able and capable men, one each a Repub- the fly in the cintment, the sudden awakening from an otherwise happy dream of joyous youth. We have no doubt that a wireless station will be planted in the new camp to-morrow, and that a university will be building in a week.

Never mind. Here's luck, lots of it, to our ambitious young namesake, Manhattan,

By the same arithmetical rule of progression which assures to Brooklyn ultimate precedence among the boroughs of already the richest, is each year increasing its lead in wealth among the five boroughs

In 1898, the first year of the Greater New York, the assessed value of real estate in Manhattan and The Bronx was \$1,856,000,000. Last year the gross valuation of real estate contributed \$57,000,000 and The Bronx \$4,000,000.

Brooklyn in 1897, the year before consoli- and Mr. Cox are working along similar lines. dation, was \$570,000,000. Last year it was

In 1897, the year preceding consolidation, and in keeping with the general and uni- the assessed value of real estate in Richversal diminution in prices under the mond borough was \$24,500,000. It is now single gold standard." Finally, re- \$44,000,000. In 1897 the assessed valuation trenchers, subretrenchers and surre- of real estate in Queens was \$106,000,000.

These increases are, of course, not absolute, for since 1903 the Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments have adopted the policy of raising all valuations to a percentage more nearly approximating market values. But the change has been uniform in operation in all the boroughs of New York and it shows Manhattan as increasing most rapidly in wealth.

Mr. Froude and His Critics.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have read in last Sunday's Sux a lengthy review of Herbert Paul's "Life of Froude. We are now in an age when the world, tired of falsehood and misrepresentations, is calling, like the dying Goethe, for "light, more light," Notwithstanding this well nigh universal thirst for the truth in history, we are pre-sented with this ghost of Ananias, who stands high among the arch misrepresenters of mer Mr. Paul admits that Froude lied, but con-

tends they were unconscious lies. We quite agree with him and the accurate Andrew Lang that Froude "often erred, misunderstood, misquoted, omitted and even added" when culling his information from original locuments, for whoever has studied the times and events about which he wrote need not be told of that author's misrepresentations.

Green Freeman and Stubbs are accurate historians: their works have stood the test of the new light of investigation thrown on history, and are recognized in all the universities as standard sources of information on th times and events they handle. sticklers for the truth of history, and it was their real for the unalloyed truth that drew forth their repeated attacks in the Saturday Review, in which they unsparingly denounced the picturesque and imaginative, which made ude's historical works a popular blend of

fact and fiction.

If Froude had that scrupulous love for truth with which our author credits him, why did he not give us the facts as found in the "parchments and manuscripts over which he toiled for months and years"? From the same original material the true facts have been given us by later and we believe more

honest historians.
His writings display a great literary ability but they can never hold any place among the works that claim historical accuracy. SHERIDAN PRENTISS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12. In Verrazano's Honor

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: As Verrazano, the Florentine navigator, was the first recorded visitor to the region of Manhattan and his name is not preserved anywhere in these parts, not even on an apartment house, why would it not be fitting to call the upper part of Seventh avenue Verrazano others and would mean quite as much. HARLEM, Jan. 11.

Knicker-So she told you to read your answer

Booker-Yes, and I found they all had a declina-

A Hint to Some Rooters. A little genius brought to light Will make a college shine More brilliantly than all the gold In klondike's richest mine.

THE CONSULAR BILL.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.-The Consular bill has been reported to the Senate from the Committee on Foreign Relations. As amended by the committee the bill is open to approval chiefly on the ground that half a loaf is better than no bread. It provides a better system than that now employed. Any improvement is welcome.

The amended bill provides seven classes of consuls-general, fixes salaries and designates the various posts included in each class. It provides ten classes of consuls, fixes salaries and includes a list of the cities embraced in each class. In this point the furnishing a good fundamental system. Transfers may be made from class to class in accordance with changing conditions. If Bagdad gets busy and becomes an important centre of American commerce it can be shifted from consul list, class ten, \$2,000, to consul-general list, class seven, \$3,000, or elsewhere. If Canton boycotts with energy it may be dropped from consulgeneral list, class four, \$5,500, to any place

in the lower grades.

One feature of great importance remains in the bill. This is the provision for an inspection service. This is an eminently desirable plan. Hitherto the State Department has been to a considerable extent at sea on many points in connection with the work and the personality of individual members of the consular corps. A consul must be unbearably objectionable before the Government of the country in which he is located will file an official complaint. There are scores of places where it is quite impossible for the State Department, under the present system, to ascertain just how faithfully or how indifferently the incumbent is doing his work. The pending bill provides that "each consular office shall be inspected at least once in every two years." As Secretary Root has said, "the importance of an inspection service hardly needs demon-

stration. In the consular service proper all fees are to be accounted for and paid into the United States Treasury. The sole and only compensation of such officers is the salary fixed by law. This will be for the good of the service. Special and prescribed provision is made for consular agents, vice and deputy consuls and consuls-general. The grade of commercial agent is abolished.

On the whole the bill is regarded as good. Its fault is that it is not better. It furnishes at least an excellent working basis, and some later Congress may have the grace to build on this foundation a better structure. It would be a misfortune if Congress should lose any time in giving approval to the measure so that the system may be put into effect.

THE FIRST BLOW AT CORRUPT PRACTICES.

Assemblyman Wainwright's Prompt Perception of the Thing to Do

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir. I was exceedingly glad to read your editorial of today in commendation of the proposed legislation to prevent campaign contributions by corporations. I desire, however, to correct a misapprehension on your part with regard New York as the most populous, Manhattan, to the proposed legislation on this subject framed by the Corrupt Practices Association.

You are under the impression that this provision is embodied in some general bill presented by the association. As originally framed and submitted to me, it was included in their bill amending the Penal Code. Apn the two boroughs was \$4,095,000,000, an | preciating that it was their most important increase of which the larger part, of course, proposition for the prevention of political has been in Manhattan. Manhattan in corruption, I suggested the great importance 1898 contributed \$50,000,000 from taxes on of embodying it in a separate bill. This real estate to the city's revenues and The suggestion was adopted, and on Wednesday Bronx \$3,100,000. Last year Manhattan night I introduced in the Assembly a separate aid of his knowledge. bill, framed by the association, a copy of which I herewith enclose.

The assessed value of real estate in It is gratifying to note that Senator White J. MAYHEW WAINWRIGHT.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.

Mrs. Piper and Dr. Hodgson. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT. I was told last week that an article was to appear in one of the city journals purporting to deal with Mrs. Piper and the situation of the Psychical Society since Dr. Hodgson's death. Some such article must have appeared, though I haven't seen it. I send you, therefore, a copy of a letter which I have

just received from Mrs. Piper. A few years ago a madeup, fake article appeared, purporting to be the confession of Mrs. Piper. I cannot quite see why any reputable paper should indulge in this sort of work. M. J. SAVAGE.

MY DEAR MR. SAVAGE: I trust that you will have o faith in those wretched newspaper articles which reporters claim interviews with me. &c., a have never opened my lips to one of them since dear Dr. Hodgson's death. I am annoyed beyond anything I can say by their falsehoods, and I wish some one would contradict it all. Besides, it is so distasteful to hear Dr. Hodgson's name used in these conjecturings. However, I am keeping silent in all cases and shall continue to do so till the end. Very sincerely yours. ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Mass., Jan. 8.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN Ser: I have often vondered whether I should say "Sle! Sic! "Seek! Seek!" to my dog. I had never seen the proper command in print until recently, when read-ing a Southern story in which it is spelled "sic." eek" and "sick." In justice to the author it

lonary" gives this spelling. the calling requiring a sharp face and penetrating BROOKLYN, Jan. 12.

PITTSBURG, Jan. 11.—There is glee among the soliticians. The aumouncement was made that the rallroads' anti pass rule would soon be a thing past. Officials of the Pennsylvania would ticians say the matter has been arrange!

Circumstances alter cases,

Shine again to day.

So the railroads say: Hence the politicians' faces

And a cheerful joy oasis Drives the clouds away This is not a backdown, Pennsy With a solemn vehemency. Excellent and rare Now the dove of peace again see Joyful in the air: He was there Only just the other day And, as then it seemed, to stay No. this is an "arrangement," Almed to end the sadestrangement

With the lordly politician He's a Hessian And unworthy recognition
If he terms the new condition A "concession."
It's a tentative engagement
Looking to his glad assuagement --

E. T. NELSON

That the New Year's resolution Doomed to early dissolution-that's all there is in it. But what do those Chicago theatre managers think of it now?

> The Foolkiller's Vacation. The foois begin to multiply; Too warm to skate near danger signs, Too cold to rock the boat.

One Written in 1888 Brings \$17-Other

Autographs Sell Well. A three page octavo letter written by Theodore Roosevelt soon after his defeat publican party in this city was among the collection of Thomas Redfield Proctor, a collection of Thomas Reddied Proceed, a prominent business man of Utica, N. Y., sold at auction by the Merwin-Clayton Company, 20 East Twentieth street, yesterday afternoon. The letter was sold for \$17. It was written while President Roosevelt was engaged upon his "Winning of the West," and is as follows:

689 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK.

Robert Clarke, Esq. DEAR SIR: Your more than courteous response to my letter is at hand, and I am greatly indebted to you for it. It contained precisely the information I wished, and shall write at once to the people you mention. The Tennessee records seem much less complete than those of Kentucky, and I must try if I can get at any MSS. of Sevier, or Shelby, or Robertson. "Edmund Kirke" I have always rather mistrusted as a historian, though a most entertaining writer. He is still mentally in the Herodotean period.

Most truly yours, THEODORE ROOSEVELT. Among the other interesting sales were

A two page quarto letter of Samuel Adams, signer of the Declaration of Independence, dated Boston, May 16, 1782, and relating to the legality of certain legislation affecting imports, \$35.

A quarto letter of Aaron Burr, November 11, 1802, \$6.

Atwo page quarto letter of Patrick Henry, May, 4 1788, to Gov. Edmund Randolph, asking an extension of time for payment of arrears by a former sheriff, \$18. A two page quarto letter of Grover Cleve-land, Executive Chamber, Albany, Septem-

ber 27, 1883, \$8.75. A soldiers' discharge from the army, June 9, 1783, signed by George Washington. \$16. A two page quarto letter of James Madison to Mathew Carey, Montpelier, July 27, 1831, relative to the political situation

27, 1831, relative to the pointed state of a State to withdraw from the Union, \$16.

A two page quarto letter of Zachary Taylor, Baton Rouge, October 23, 1848, explaining why he had accepted the nomination of the Know Nothing party for

A commission, as Secretary of Legation to Brazil, January 18, 1864, signed by Presi-dent Lincoln and Secretary Seward, \$16. A bond by Israel Putnam, May 13, 1775, to the Government Communication. President. \$20. to the Governor and Company of Connecti-cut, for the faithful performance of his

cut, for the faithful performance of his duties as paymaster, \$45. An octavo letter by William M. Thackeray, December 7, 1848, \$20. A certificate of membership in the So-ciety of the Cincinnati of Capt. Michael Con-nolly of the New York Line, signed by George Washington as president of the order, \$45.

WATCH ON WATER MAINS.

New Commissioner Takes Steps to Have Breaks Repaired Immediately.

William B. Ellison, the new head of the water supply department, has determined to obviate such expensive delays in reto obviate such expensive delays in re-pairing breaks in the water mains as oc-curred in Fifth avenue on the second or third day of his commissionership. The time since he has spent acquainting him-self with the inefficiency of the method of the past, and yesterday he wrote this circular letter to all foremen of the water stations and emergency gangs:

I write to impress upon you the great importance of an efficient service by the emergency repair force of this department with the hope that in case of breakages it the water service mains they will be remedied immediately.

To accomplish the result to which I have referred I have arranged to have a man duty all night at headquarters, 13-21 Park row (telephone "258 Cortlandt"), and it is my desire that immediately upon your receiving notice of a break you report the same to the man on duty here. I have also arranged to have an engineer

available every night, so that in case of necessity you may have his assistance or the I also request that in case of a serious

break I be immediately notified at my residence, Hotel Marseille (telephone "3790 Riverside"), so that I may call out such additional help as I deem necessary. Minor leaks, of course, you will take care of without noti-

I am particularly interested in the effort to avoid any delay in the remedying of breaks in our water system and ask you to use your utmost endeavors to give me the most efficient service in this regard.

It is the Commissioner's purpose to contime the improvements undertaken by Commissioner Monroe and intermitted in the administration of Commissioner Oakley. One of the shortcomings of the department, it has appeared from past departmental reports, was concerned with supervision. Supervisors of street opensupervision. Supervisors of street open-ings and of the proper laying or relaying of water mains have, it is said, hitherto considered that their jobs were sinecures.

HOW TO DON.

Bay State Rules, With Some Reflections

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN of to day)
Union Sult of Hartford (in The Sun of to day)
base not wearing union suits or, as he is pleased those not wearing union suits or, as he to term them, "initial garments," are not correct dressers. I do not believe it. Ask any weary, perspiring pedestrian (barring the thin ones) fortunate enough to be inside a suit, how well he ices it. Surely correct dressers are not confined to thin, sedentary persons to whom union suits

seem peculiarly adapted. Getting into the doggone things is the least of the troubles one encounters in fussing with them. The ideal union suit is a thing of the future. I have

some ideas, but have not a knitting mill,
If "Union Suit" is sincere in his desire to know should be stated that the various commands are how to get into a suit gracefully I will endeavor to used by different characters.

After all, isn't it "seek"? The "Standard Diepleads for thousands of others, who, as he thinks, are as ignorant as he. What an acrobatic feat it While writing on deg lingo, let me ask why the professional chauffcurs I see in the streets have slim faces and long noses. Is there something in "Union Suit" has ever put on his "pants" in a sleeping car berth a partial solution of his troublesome problem ought to come to him as does dawn upon the dark night, slowly yet surely.

This is the way: If in winter, you first sit up in the warm bed (the correct dresser's initial garment can be warmed under the covers if the shock from investing in a cold garment is too severe) and in sert the nether limbs (right or left or both together) in the bifurcated section. Then, by a deft movement to the side of the bed and putting the feet on the floor, the upper or trunk section will be in good position to don as a coat (right or left arm first, after removing the nocturnal robe, which is done just at this point. If it is against the creed of the correct dresser to don his habiliment in the bedroom, the performance must be translated to the dressing room. Lay the c. d. l. g. partly on a chair (the trunk section) and partly on the floor the nether section). Sit on the aforesaid trunk part, draw on the "pants" part, then the coat part, stand up and button. Simple enough, is it not?
The way your mother put on your coat and trousers has a great deal to do with the way you do it when you are grown up, ambidextrous, left handed or what not. Habits formed in youth, &c. consult Froebel. What difference does it make anyhow? The result justifies the means. It is right to do it wrong (the left first) to gain the right end (getting them on) AUBURNDALE, Mass., Jan. 10.

Triffing With Sociology. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In regard to

your editorial on "The Order of Precedence in Dressing" in yesterday's SUN it seems to me that a man must necessarily put on the right sleeve of his coat or the right leg of his trousers first, be-cause no matter which sleeve or leg he puts on first the other one is left to be put on last; and if he left Is put on last the right must be put on first.

DARLINGTON, S. C., Jan. 9. RIGHT HANDER.

Championship Quickly Won. TO THE LOUISING OF THE SUN-SITE W.Illiam Smith

n to day's Sun says: "It is not the question in my open on Sunday afternoon.

Through all the wide var. who shall wear them."

JACK TRUINFUL. Visiter.

ROOSEVELT LETTER AT AUCTION. BEMIS THROUGH TALKING GAS. State Commission Cuts Off His News on

Price Reduction After Ten Days. The State Gas Commission got through yesterday with Prof. E. W. Bemis, known as the Mayoralty candidate of the Re- as the "universal price reducer," or "the greatest living authority," according to the position of the attorneys. When at 5:30 o'clock the commission adjourned Prof. Bemis had been on the stand for ten all day

sessions. At the finish he looked as "brite and fair" as at the beginning and was talking beyond the speed of the stenographer. He did not stop voluntarily, but because Chairman Gunnison declared emphatically that the commission had had enough.

Under cross-examination by Attorney Mathewson of the Consolidated Gas Company Prof. Bemis explained how he had reached the conclusion that 75 cent gas in this city would yield the Consolidated an annual profit of 5.3 per cent. on its own valuation of \$39,000,000 for its plant and a profit of 7.47 per cent. on the valuation of \$29,000,000 fixed by the State Tax Commission. His deduction was made, he said, principally from examinations in Boston. Chicago and other cities. Mr. Mathewson attempted to show through the witness an essential difference between the conditions in New York and those in other cities. The witness couldn't see them.

The complainants closed their case with Prof. Bemis's testimony. The Consolidated will begin its case at the next hearing, Tuesday, with President Alexander C. Humphreys of Stevens Institute as its first and principal witness.

JOKER ON THE BALTIC. Startles the Passengers With Wireless Bul-

letins-Lady Wilson's Rush for Steamer. A jester aboard the White Star liner Baltic, in yesterday from Liverpool and Queenstown, put up three fake Marconi wireless despatches on the saloon bulletin board on Saturday morning that caused a momentary sensation among the cabin passengers. The bogus Marconigrams were

Frenzied Finance fame has committed suicids n a Boston hotel. Miss Alice Roosevelt, daughter of the President, has cloped with Capt. Jackson of he Fifteenth Hussars, military attache of the British Embassy at Washington Japan sends ultimatum to Germany demanding that all German troops be with-

It is reported that Thomas W. Lawson of

impending. The purser removed the bulletins and explained that it was the work of a wag, whom he would like to discover.

drawn from Chinese territory. Grave crisis

The Baltic was five hours reaching her

whom he would like to discover.

The Baltic was five hours reaching her dock from Quarantine in the dense fog. Efforts to communicate by wireless from the upper bay to the White Star dock were futile, although at sea the Baltic has no trouble talking more than 200 miles.

Lady Grey Wilson, wife of the Governor of the Bahamas, who was a passenger by the Baltic, had engaged passage to Nassau by the Ward liner Orizaba and feared that she would not be able to catch the ship. A message was sent to the Ward Line and the agents agreed to hold the Orizaba an hour. Lady Wilson hired an automobile and made a flying trip down town and across the bridge to the Ward Line's Brooklyn pier and boarded the ship hardly a minute within the hour.

Winter Rush for Mediterranean Begins -Carmania's Good Liverpool List. Sailing to-day for the Mediterranean by

he North German Lloyd steamship Koenig Albert: Franklin Abbott, Dr. Bergenthal of the German Consulate, Dr. William F. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Curtis, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Cudaby,

Dr. and Mrs. H. W. Cheney, the Rev. Father V. J. von den Droeck, Mrs. Louis Fleisch-mann, Mr. and Mrs. W. Shirley Fulton, Mr. and Mrs. George Lauder, Dr. L. H. Mi. Mrs. A. L. Morton, Mrs. Gouverneur Mort William A. Mackay, Theodore B. Osber Dr. and Mrs. S. C. Powell, Baron and Baron ess Ernest de Schoenberg, Mrs. Henry Albert Seymour, Thomas H. Stryker, Mrs. George A. Saportas, Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Townsend and Henry Thierry.

Arrivals by the White Star liner Balt from Liverpool and Queenstown:

Sir M. M. van Asch van Wyck, Mr. Mrs. R. T. Bayliss, C. H. Draper, Mr. Mrs. D. G. Emery, Power Fitzgerald, M and Mrs. Walter Gibb, Mr. and Mrs. A. Preton Jones, Lord and Lady Ingestre, Dr stantine Herdocia, the Rev. Dr. Moyna Irving K. Yaylor, Lady Grey Wilson, G. Vernon and Prof. and Mrs. George

Voyagers by the Cunarder Carn which sails to-day for Queenstown and

J. H. Allen, Capt. A. Akin-Higgins, Major E. T. M. Bridges, Capt. Hugh Downe Downey, E. Brace Freer, P. W. French Grant, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Gubbins, Fre Leay (British Consul General at Valpari Capt. P. Maude, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Me on Union Suits.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: According to hurst, T. W. Sheppard, Mr. and Mrs. Fro erick Sargent, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Taber, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Vanelain, Bruce Whiting and A. D. Willett.

Passengers by the American liner Philadelphia, off to-day for Southampton W. B. Brown, R. Newton Crane, Robert E. Crane, Mrs. Francis William Sprague, dius S. Stern, John A. Dix, Com-Thomas R. Coombs and Major Harry Morris of the Salvation Army.

Aboard the Hamburg-American light Prinz Oskar, which sails on Monday for the Mediterranean: Mr. and Mrs. Wallace P. Bache, Dr. W. J. Circe, S. E. Carpenter, Mrs. Arthur E. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Grant, Mrs. Frederick C.

Mead, Mrs. S. B. McKay, Mr. and Mrs. John Guy Owsley and Mrs. M. C. Worden. Passengers by the Atlantic Transport liner Minnetonka, which sails to-day for London

J. L. Weeler, Mrs. L. B. Sutton, Mrs. H.

Stewart, William Henry Morris, Robe Ketcham, Mrs. Franklin M. Gordon, D. B. Heald, George C. Eck. Norman E. Bennett and P. D. Awlward.

Aboard the Red Star liner Vaderlaud, off to-day for Dover and Antwerp: Horace Canfield, B. F. Corey, Mrs. Joseph Reid, Mrs. Franklin D. L. Prentiss and Mrs. G. B. Van Schaick.

Sailing by the Hamburg-American lines

Robert Williams, Mrs. Ida von Pechmani Dr. P. J. Oetlinger and Mr. and Mrs A. A. MR. BISHOP'S ART OBJECTS SHOWN

A Diversified Collection on Exhibition for

Only a Few Days. In the exhibition of the Heber R. Bishop art collection, which opens to-day in the American Art Galleries, there is the first opportunity of the present season for these who are interested to visit a comprehension art exhibition which is worthy of an The exhibition is to be all too short, s. the collection is to be seen in its ent only until Wednesday, when the at begins, although the various sections the collection will continue to be exhibited until the particular days upon which they

are to be sold. Owing to the shortness of the time if which the whole collection may be seen, I was decided yesterday to keep the galleries

Through all the wide variety of its (1) the shall wear them."

It never was a question in my house; it was a lownright fact in forty-eight hours to the minute.

and Japanese art objects, Europeat ings and furniture and arms and the collection offers beauty and interest. And the young lady from Vassar took the trick. the amateur, the student or the castal